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TOWN OF MANSFIELD
COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 7, 2010
Minutes

Present: Betsy Patterson, Joe Briody, Steve Rhodes, Denise Keane, David Morse, and Jane Fried

Staff: Mike Nintean, Greg Paddick, Jim Hintz (UConn)

Convener: Mike Nintean

Recording Secretary: Jane Fried

1. Minutes of the previous meeting were corrected. Denise Keane's name is now spelled properly.
2. There were no attendees from the public.
3. Denise requested that the resolution passed in November be passed on to the Town Council for consideration. (MIKE- I WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE THAT RESOLUTION- DO YOU HAVE IT IN A FORM THAT COULD BE INSERTED? OTHERWISE I WILL TYPE IT IN.)
4. Communications
 - a. The link to the community dialogue site on UTube was announced. Committee members are encouraged to watch the video from home.
 - b. The ordinance adopted by South Orange , NJ (colloquially called the "Animal House" ordinance) was discussed. Landlords are held accountable for unruly student behavior in houses they own. A similar program exists at UMass/Amherst. The committee asked the staff to investigate these two ordinances further. They are a complement to the Poughkeepsie ordinance and might work well together. Jane asked about exploring the creation of a police force for the town since both of these approaches are unworkable without additional enforcement capacity. Betsy informed the group that resources are being sought for the exploration expanding police presence in Mansfield.
 - c. David asked Greg and Mike about the possibility of seeking enabling legislation from the state legislature to allow the town to raise caps on state fines imposed for violation of ordinances.
 - d. At the next meeting time will be spent comparing the Amherst and South Orange ordinances and enforcement processes.
5. New Business
 - a. Committee composition: The current committee has 7 members. The committee suggests that it have seven members, with a minimum of 2 council members, 4 citizen members and one university representative. Joe Briody moved and Denise Keane seconded this motion. It was passed unanimously. Joe was elected chair by acclamation.

- b. The draft of the Student Rental Registry ordinance is not ready yet. It is being reviewed by the town attorney. This item is forwarded to next month's meeting.
 - c. The definition of family is also being reviewed and will be discussed in February.
 - d. Review of the Committee Action Plan dated September 3, 2009 : Rhodes suggested that **item #15**, creation of a model lease to be used by landlords of rented private homes be moved to the top of the list. Other top priority items are **#1**, Rental Parking Area designation, **#3** Student Rental Land Use category, **#4**, Reduce number of unrelateds from 4 to 3, **#5**, Tenant Registry, **#10**, Implement Special Public Safety Ordinances. Middle priority items include **#7**, closing owner occupancy loopholes, **#11 and 12**, suggestions for community engagement and dialogue. Low priorities, for which other committees and groups are responsible include **#16 and 17** which are intended for large apartment complexes and **#8,9 and 13** which are connected to policing; Items **#2,6 and 14** are large scale items which will not be addressed at this time.
 - e. Mike will revise the priority list to reflect the discussion and include the status of work being done on the issue.
6. Next Month's Business
- a. A draft of the tenant registry process and the definition of family will be available.
 - b. More information about the South Orange and Amherst ordinances. Jane will explore the situation in Fairfield, CT.
 - c. The committee will be informed on the response of the council to the resolution passed last month.
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Fried